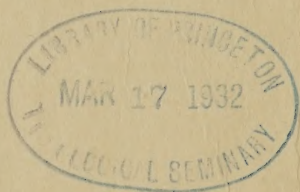


Day After Day

Second Series



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DAY AFTER DAY

SECOND SERIES

A MANUAL OF DEVOTIONS
FOR
FAMILY USE

Compiled and Arranged

by

HAROLD McA. ROBINSON, D.D.



PHILADELPHIA
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
1926

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Introduction

IN 1919 Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman prepared for the New Era Committee a manual of devotions for individual and family use. This manual was published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work under the title, "Day After Day."

In the seven years that have elapsed since the publication of "Day After Day" it has had a wide use in the Presbyterian Church and has blessed many individuals and families in bringing them near to God. But such a manual, providing materials for daily devotions over a period of thirteen weeks, after a time loses the freshness of its appeal. This is particularly the case when the manual has any of the atmosphere of peculiar conditions obtaining at the time of its publication. Dr. Chapman's manual was compiled just after the close of the World War and in some respects breathes the devotional spirit appropriate to that time.

These considerations have made it appear wise to issue a second manual, prepared on the same general plan as the first "Day After Day" and designed to further the purpose for which Dr. Chapman prepared his manual, as, in effect, the last public service he rendered to the Church whose ministry he had so long adorned. This second series of "Day After Day" has been compiled in obedience to these considerations, and the compiler has had the advantage, as was the case with Dr. Chapman before him, of the kind assistance of a number of laymen and ministers of the Church, to whom he acknowledges his indebtedness.

The Scripture selections are carefully chosen with a view to their value for devotional use in the family, and are arranged in the order of their occurrence in the Bible, with the exception of the passages from the Gospels, which are arranged in the order of their occurrence in "Harmony of the Gospels," by Stevens and Burton. Thirty-six books of the Bible are represented, twelve from the Old Testament and

INTRODUCTION

twenty-four from the New Testament. The prayers are for the most part written in harmony with Robert Murray M'Cheyne's injunction in his "Letter to a Boy": "You read your Bible regularly, of course; but do try to understand it, and still more to feel it. Turn the Bible into prayer."

Appended to the Scripture selections and prayers for the mornings of thirteen weeks will be found a brief treasury of prayers for special occasions of family life. These are taken, by permission, from "A Book of Family Worship," published, in 1921, by the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work, whose successor as publisher for the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. is the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education.

This introduction cannot conclude more fittingly than with a quotation from Dr. Chapman's introduction to the first "Day After Day":

"A prayerless home is a powerless home. A household protected by prayer cannot drift far from God. Therefore, if we would have our homes right with God, and our children kept from drifting, we must pray not only for our loved ones but with them, and do it every day."

H. M. R.

Family Covenant Card



We do this day

Affirm our faith in Jesus Christ
as our Saviour and resolve
by the aid of the holy
Spirit to

Obey him as our Lord and Master
and with God's help to

Confess him before men.

Dated _____ 19

Family Covenant Card



The Family Covenant Card

It is suggested that the members of the household sign this Covenant Card as indicating their faith in Jesus Christ, their willingness to obey him as Lord and Master, and their readiness to confess him before men.

I was once holding a series of meetings in another part of the world, when I noticed one of my special friends, who was occupying a seat upon the platform, busily engaged in writing. I wondered what could be occupying his mind. Later, I found out that he was planning a Family Covenant Card. I was preaching that evening on the home, and it evidently occurred to him that it would be a good thing to have his entire household enrolled under the Family Covenant. He took the card home that night and within a short time the names of father, mother, and children were all written down. Two of his boys entered the service of their country; one of them made the supreme sacrifice in the early part of the war, the other was killed in the spring of 1918. The names of both of these young officers are to be found to-day upon the Covenant Card, and I can quite understand how their distinguished father and their devoted mother feel as they read their names. I can also appreciate the sense of comfort and joy which must have been theirs because of the signatures of their two sons.

It is most earnestly recommended that on some special evening, perhaps on Sunday evening, the household using this book be gathered together, the Family Covenant Card explained, and the names of the household written down.

—J. WILBUR CHAPMAN.

The Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

¶ *The Lord's Prayer may be added at the close of each prayer if desired.*

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sunday Morning, First Week

AND he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it, And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

—GEN. 28:12-17.

Almighty and most merciful God, we approach thy throne of grace through the mediation and intercession of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. By thy Holy Spirit take from us every stain of sin and grant that our petitions may find acceptance in thy sight.

God of the patriarchs, of the prophets, of the apostles, of the martyrs, and of our fathers, the same from generation to generation, we worship thee.

We thank thee that thou didst speak to the lonely pilgrim in the night and didst give to him assurance of thy favor. We rejoice that the ladder of communication between heaven and earth still stands for thy children in every clime and for all time, and that angel messengers are constantly bringing assurances of thy fatherly interest in us.

Bless those who are lonely, desolate, and afraid, and give to them the assurance of thy presence and favor. Gracious Redeemer, live with us and walk with us in the valleys and on the mountain tops of life. By thy Holy Spirit help us to gain the victory over sin.

Grant these favors, O God, for the sake of our only Advocate and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, thy Son. Amen.

—DAVID G. WYLIE, D.D.

Monday Morning, First Week

HEAR therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.—DEUT. 6:3-9.

O God, who hast sent forth thy light and thy truth for our leading, graciously open our eyes, that we may walk this day in thy light, and our hearts, that the entering in of thy truth may bring us the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

We glorify thee who art Love and we give thanks to thee that in this thy universe, where there is so much that we cannot control and so much that we cannot understand, there beats an omnipotent heart.

This day as thou dost knock at our door, we open unto thee, beseeching thee to come in and abide with us. Fill our hearts with love that we may love thee without bounds, even unto the sacrifice of our lives, and our neighbors as ourselves.

Help us to carry forth into the day the sense of thy nearness and in the discharge of all of our duties and responsibilities, represent thee worthily. Bring us to the close of our day in peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—WILLIAM HERBERT HUDNUT, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, First Week

BE strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

—JOSH. 1:6-9.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank thee for thy holy law, written in the Bible, and drawn in its fairest lines in the life of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May none of the labor or pleasure of the day so distract us that we may not now and then find a moment of time in which to meditate on this law, and whether we work or play or meditate, may thy law be all day long a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway.

Help us to be strong and very courageous to-day, that we may observe to do according to thy law, whatever our companions or our enemies may do or say. Give us in our several undertakings that good success which comes only to those who are enabled by thy grace to do thy will. May none of us, either old or young, fail of thy help to-day to live as Christians in the face of temptations and opportunities.

Give strength and courage, with good success, to all those who are bound to us by ties of blood or friendship, and to all those throughout the world who call upon thee as Father. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Wednesday Morning, First Week

AND it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; and ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; that the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. —I SAM. 3:2-10.

Our heavenly Father, we pray thee that now and evermore thy Word may be precious, as it was in the days of Eli. We thank thee for the mother love that prompted the devoted Hannah to dedicate her child to thee. We pray that her mantle may fall upon all parents, so that, in quietness and in confidence, they may teach their children to worship thee in the beauty of holiness.

We thank thee for our homes and for our loved ones; and, as the child Samuel was brought to the Temple to be trained for a life of loving service, so, we pray thee, may our own dear children be taught early, in the sacred home circle, to worship thee "in spirit and in truth," and to love the place where thine honor dwelleth. May they learn, as did Samuel, to serve thee faithfully. We pray for ourselves, that in all our ways we may have the blessed assurance of thy comforting presence and feel the touch of thy guiding hand. Our trust is in thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—HARRY PRINGLE FORD.

Thursday Morning, First Week

AND the Lord sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: but the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: and he shall restore the lamb four-fold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man.

—II SAM. 12:1-7a.

Our Father in heaven, help us to learn from this Scripture how easily we are deceived about ourselves. We confess that we are not only unable to see ourselves as others see us, but we are unable to see ourselves as thou, God, seest us. We humbly confess our sin of self-deceit.

We beseech thee to keep us this day from all rash judgments of others, from aggravating the small faults of others, from unnecessarily uncovering the infirmities of others. In our relationships with the members of our own family and our other associates, may we maintain that love which "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

But when it comes to our own faults, infirmities, and sins, may we hear thy voice speaking to us, "Thou art the man," and may we, by thy grace, turn from our sins with grief and hatred of them, and be enabled so to walk as did our Lord Jesus, to whom we commit ourselves and all those whom we love, as to a Saviour who is able to save to the uttermost all those who come to thee by him. For his sake. Amen.

Friday Morning, First Week

BLESSED be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us: that he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers. And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require: that all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else. Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

—I KINGS 8:56-61.

O God, almighty and ever gracious, keeping thy covenants forever, answering always thy people's prayers, be merciful to us to-day as we gather about thy throne, a little group with upturned faces, outstretched arms, and hungering hearts. Our fathers in all their generations have sought thy face and have gone out glad and strong. Thou hast fed them on the best of the wheat and on "honey out of the rock." We make common cause with them. We take our place among the mighty congregation of all those who have lifted thy name in praise and prayer. We pause our little moment in the audience chamber of the Eternal. We crave from thy grace the vision and the victory that others have won from thee. May we be faithful to those who have gone before, faithful to those who shall come after, faithful to thee, as thou dost preside over all and lead the ages along. Grant us to bend in dedication and to rise in humility before thy power. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—HENRY M. EDMONDS, D.D.

Saturday Morning, First Week

AND one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

—II KINGS 6:12-17.

Our heavenly Father, thou art ever near us. Help us to realize thy presence. We believe that in thee we "live, and move, and have our being," but there are hours, as thou knowest, when it is hard for us to understand that round about us are the chariots and the horsemen, the great protective agencies of our God.

In the knowledge of thy care for us, thy watch over us, thy presence with us, may we perform our appointed tasks to-day, enjoying our many privileges, and looking confidently to a future lighted by divine love.

Make us in our turn defenders and protectors of thy little ones; of every helpless life; of each needy soul.

Pardon our unbelief. Unstop our ears that we may hear thy voice. Open our eyes that we, too, may see the chariots and the horsemen. For Christ's sake. Amen.

—HENRY B. MASTER, D.D.

Sunday Morning, Second Week

THINE, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own. I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness.

—I CHRON. 29:11-17a.

We bow humbly before thee, Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, recognizing thy ownership and lordship in all things. Thine, indeed, is "the kingdom, and the power, and the glory," and yet thou art our kind and gracious heavenly Father. Thou revealest thyself in all thy might and majesty, and yet thou dealest with us as the children of thy love and heirs of thy grace. It is the desire of our hearts, as members of this household, to do what we can to advance thy cause in the world. We praise thy glorious name for whatever work thou hast assigned us in building up thy Kingdom, although it is not always of our own choosing. Thou didst not permit thy servant David to realize the dream he cherished to build a house for thee but thou didst give him the grace of cheerful acquiescence and enable him to do gladly the things which it was thy will for him to do. May we gladly do what we can in the place where we are and with the things that we have. May we walk softly before thee in this land of our pilgrimage, where we are indeed but strangers and sojourners, and may we at the close of our journeyings be received into thine everlasting habitations. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—HUGH K. WALKER, D.D.

Monday Morning, Second Week

AND Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: and Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. . . . So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength. So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

—NEH. 8:5, 6; 8-12.

We thank thee, O our Father, for this new day and for this renewed privilege of the family altar. Sanctify us "through thy truth: thy Word is truth"; and the entrance of thy Word giveth light. Bless, we pray thee, all our household. May the children who are dearest to us walk in our counsel as we take counsel of thee; and may we all eat of the fat and drink of the sweet of thy holy Word that, out of the fullness and joy of our own lives, we may give plenteous portions to those for whom nothing is prepared, both in this, our homeland, and in all lands. Bless the poor and the sick and those who sorrow to-day. Give them, we beseech thee, thy promised care and comfort; and, if it be thy will for us, let us be thy great heart and thy loving hands to minister thy grace and loving-kindness to them in their need. Give us strength and courage to do thy will. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

—W. O. FORBES, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, Second Week

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! —PSALM 8.

Our Father which art in heaven, we thank thee that we know thee as our Father. We thank thee for thine eternal Son, Jesus Christ, whom thou didst send as a little babe on earth, to show us in his later manhood the way of everlasting life, to die and rise again that we might be made sure of that life. We thank thee that he taught us to call thee our Father! Out of his mouth hast thou ordained our strength.

Even as thou hast the dominion over all things, in the heavens and on the earth, so hast thou given us dominion over some things. We thank thee for the dominion gained by men over beasts and birds and natural forces, by which we have shelter, food, clothing, and so much of comfort. Help us also to win the dominion over our own spirits. May passion, temper, prejudice, disappointment, or sorrow not control us. May we obtain dominion over them and over all things else that try and tempt us. Help us, we pray thee, to live this day according to the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask it in his name. Amen.

—ROY EWING VALE, D.D.

Wednesday Morning, Second Week

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved. —PSALM 15.

O thou most holy One, we come unto thee, seeking thy holiness. Forgive us the sinfulness of our minds and the frailty of our lips. Help us by the power of Christ to purify our thought life from all unclean and unkind things. Give us the purity of heart which comes from the cleansing power of thy love. May our lives be so filled with the holy aspirations and desires that they will contain no room for the things which stain and mar the soul. May our mouths utter thy praise and may the law of kindness rule our conversation. Bless us and make us a blessing to all those with whom we come into contact. Glorify thy truth in us and help us so to walk that our friends may see in us the image of Christ, in whose name and for whose sake we present these our petitions. Amen.

—E. A. McALPIN, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Second Week

I WILL bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

—Ps. 34:1-8.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, reverently would we bow before thee. Thou inhabitest light that is inaccessible and full of glory; yet thou dwellest in the heart of him who is humble and contrite. Give us a sense of thy presence as, refreshed by sleep, we enter upon the duties of a new day. Have us in thy strong and loving keeping wherever we go, whatever we do. May thy angels encamp round about us. Give us the blessedness of those who trust in the Lord. Enable us to bear witness to thy loving-kindness and tender mercy by cheerfulness, hope, and peace.

Bless all whom we love, present and absent. Give them the knowledge of thy will and the grace to follow as thou shalt lead. May we magnify the Lord and exalt his name together. Remember those who are passing through the valley of sorrow. May they never be lonely, desolate, or afraid. Send out thy light and salvation into all the earth. Hasten the day when all men shall know thee and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. Pardon our sins; and add every blessing that is needful for us. For the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—SYLVESTER W. BEACH, D.D.

Friday Morning, Second Week

GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

—Ps. 46:1-7.

Almighty God and everlasting Father, may we find in thy protecting care and thy loving-kindness, our safety, our satisfaction, and our peace. Thou art our Keeper. Thou abidest through all change and distress, and our trust is in thee. Let no alarms disturb our hearts, since nothing can separate us from thy love. Remove from us, we pray thee, our anxieties and fears, for no one can pluck us out of thy hand. Thou art our Refuge and Strength.

We thank thee, our Father, for our home; for its shelter and content, "for the joy of human love." Guard thou our home. Continue our hearts in love of one another and of thee. Preserve our family circle from all evil. We commit ourselves to thy fatherly keeping, knowing that thou wilt keep that which we have committed unto thee. Therefore will not we fear. So have we learned of thee in thy sanctuary and from thy Word and have been strengthened and helped.

Defend and prosper thy Church and spread abroad thy Word, we pray, that all men may share this our blessing. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—REV. W. P. MOODY.

Saturday Morning, Second Week

MY soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them. God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

—Ps. 62:5-12.

O God, in thee is the source of all power. By thy creative word all things exist, and thou dost sustain all that thou hast created. But, though thy might is measureless, thou dost show mercy even to the weakest and lowliest of thy creatures. No service for thee escapes thy notice. In deep consciousness of our continual need, we look to thee for sustenance, for protection, for strength to do our work to-day. Where else can we turn? No human resources can avail to meet our necessity. No amount of riches can procure that which we most need. Satisfy our souls with thyself, O Saviour of mankind. Make thy Word manna to sustain us. Our trust is in thee. Through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

—DAVID MCCONAUGHY.

Sunday Morning, Third Week

GOD be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

—PSALM 67.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by thee shall all the families of the earth be blest. Only by thy mercy blessings come and only by thy mercy can they abide. Forgive and in thy mercy give. Show us thy way of salvation that we may walk in a plain path. Cause thy face to shine upon us, and then cause thyself to shine within us. In our home, about our table, through our intimate fellowships, and at our common tasks may thy face shine and thine eyes guide.

We thank thee that the earth yields her increase day by day despite our lack in stewardship and frequent abuse thereof, and we rejoice that one day thorns and briers shall cease, the fruits of righteousness abound, and the whole earth become the garden of the Lord. Hasten the day when ugliness and hatred and war shall pass away and all nations shall sing a hallelujah chorus of peace and brotherhood.

Bless the President of the United States and all rulers, that the powers that be may recognize themselves as ordained of God. Revive thy Church with a more vivid love of thy Word and a keener vision of thy way. Cast down all idolatry. Bless all missionaries that through their words and lives "thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations." Let thy Word be teacher in all our schools and colleges, thy righteousness be written in all our laws, thy way be seen in all our streets, and thy spirit pulsate in all our life so that our song may be an anthem of coronation for Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords. In his name. Amen.

—WALLACE RADCLIFFE, D.D.

Monday Morning, Third Week

LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place, in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. . . . O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

—Ps. 90:1, 2; 14-17.

Dear Lord, our Refuge and Strength, who dost comfort thy people in every age, grant that in mind and heart, throughout this day, we may love and magnify thy great and eternal name. Before thou didst fashion the mountains or set bounds to the seas, thou didst love us with an endless love. Truly thou art our God and Father, gracious and merciful, full of compassion. With a Father's yearning heart thou dost follow us always. Grant that we may rejoice and be glad in thy holy fellowship all the day.

If in this day our lives are found in the valley of sorrow and affliction, or we are hard pressed by the Evil One, wilt thou, O gracious Lord, be our Covert, Shield, and Defense. Be our stay and comfort until the end of the day, keeping us and renewing us by thy divine grace.

Gracious Lord, let the work of thy divine grace in us be apparent, that others, seeing the power of thy abiding mercy, may be led to glorify thee. Let the glory of thy sustaining grace find expression in the lives of our children unto their salvation and thy everlasting glory. Wilt thou be pleased to guide us in our work and conversation throughout the day, that thou mayest be able to bless and establish our work unto the praise and glory of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

—J. AMBROSE DUNKEL, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, Third Week

O COME, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. —Ps. 95:1-7.

O Lord, thou art God of all the multitudes of men, thou art Maker and King over all powers and peoples, from everlasting to everlasting. Yet thou regardest the lowliest of thy people as a father doth regard his children; thou carest for the least among us with a tender care; thou lovest the poorest with a love that never faileth.

Accept, O Lord, our humble adoration. We serve thee imperfectly, we fail in our obedience to thee, we have come far short of that which thou most rightfully requirest; yet, our Father, thou knowest that we love thee. Turn thou not away from us, but, in thy great mercy, receive the lowly tribute of our love.

Forgive, we pray thee, all wrong that we have done. Restore us as we have fallen from thy grace, lift us as we have stumbled in the way, and cleanse us as we have failed to keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

Bless thou our home and all who dwell herein. Give us grace that we may be faithful, forgiving, and kind to one another, as thou hast been to us. Bless all who are dear to us. And guide us through life to the rest thou hast appointed unto us in heavenly places. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

—ALVIN E. MAGARY, D.D.

Wednesday Morning, Third Week

MAKE a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. —PSALM 100.

Our heavenly Father, we thank thee for the joy of life. For the beauty of the world, for the song of birds, and for the laughter of little children, we praise thee. Above all, our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving because we know Whom we have believed, and we are persuaded that he is able to keep that which we have committed unto him against that day. How shall we praise thee as we ought for the consciousness that we are thine? Help us, we beseech thee, that we may show our gratitude by transforming the common day so that our ordinary tasks may in deed and in truth be rendered as worship. We do not pray for exemption from the common toil, the common grief of mankind. We ask that we may be more than conquerors through him who loved us. Enable us to go singing on our way and, if darkness comes, grant us grace to look up and see thy stars shining. May we do our duty to the end, in the full assurance of a happy entrance into our eternal home. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—HENRY MARCOTTE, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Third Week

LIKE as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.

—Ps. 103:13-22.

We thank thee, heavenly Father, that the tenderest thoughts about thee are the thoughts of the heavenly family to which we belong. We thank thee that thou art our Father and we are thy children; that Jesus is our Elder Brother; and that thou hast taught us to come to thee as children to a Father. We bless thee for thy fatherly provision, both temporal and spiritual. We thank thee that thy fatherly care has provided an inheritance whereby we are heirs of thine and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. We praise thee for the greatest of gifts, even the Spirit of truth, whom thou art more willing to give us than a father is to give bread to a hungry child.

Let thy blessing rest upon our family to-day. May love pervade all our relations with one another and with thee. Graciously pardon our transgressions.

Keep us, we pray thee, from sin this day. With every temptation wilt thou make a way of escape. We humbly pray in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

—A. J. McCLUNG, D.D.

Friday Morning, Third Week

WHEREWITHAL shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed are thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

—Ps. 119:9-16.

Eternal Father, cleanse our hearts from every sin and secret fault. Help us by the power of thy Holy Spirit to see more clearly the sham and deceitfulness of sin.

May we gladly pay the price of time and effort to know thee better and to have the joy of an intimate fellowship. Help us to love thy Word better and to lay it up in our hearts, that we may not sin in the hour of temptation.

May we and all others who acknowledge thee as Lord be free from all hypocrisy. May we be so genuine of spirit that thy winsomeness may be revealed through us, and lead others to desire thee.

Make us conscious of the need of thee in every contact of life. Reveal thyself to us as a loving friend with whom we walk and talk along the pathway of life. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

—J. J. Ross.

Saturday Morning, Third Week

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, even for evermore.

—PSALM 121.

“Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
And make me love thee as I ought to love.”

We thank thee, our Father, that thou dost ever surround us with thine infinite love and mercy. Though we are unworthy, yet thou art ever seeking to draw us closer to thee that we may breathe the atmosphere of thy presence and go out to manifest thy spirit as we mingle with our fellows.

To-day we would live with the consciousness of thy presence in our hearts. Thou art always with us but we so often forget that thou art near. Forgive us, we pray thee, and help us to-day to open the windows of our souls that the sunshine of thy love may fill our hearts and lives. Protect us from aught that would rob us of our heritage as thy children. Make us willing, that we may face each new task with quiet confidence and joy. Fill us with courage that we may stand for the hard right against the easy wrong. Give us thy strength that we may meet every opportunity for service. Keep thou our feet from stumbling as we tread the path of duty. In all our goings out and comings in grant us the impelling guidance of thy spirit. Thou alone canst keep us, so we yield ourselves to thee.

In full consciousness of our weakness we lift our hearts and voices unto thee, O Lord. We are confident that thou dost hear the prayer of our hearts and wilt answer according to our needs out of the abundance of thy mercy. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

—REV. E. P. WESTPHAL.

Sunday Morning, Fourth Week

I WILL extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

—Ps. 145:1-7.

O Lord, our God, like the psalmist every day would we bless thee. Every day would we magnify thy majesty, thy great goodness, and thy righteousness. Every day would we ask of thee our daily bread, both material and spiritual. We would never let the fire go out upon this family altar; and, as one generation, we would praise thy works to all other generations.

On this Lord's day, too, we would offer thee special praise.

“On thee, at the creation,
The light first had its birth;
On thee, for our salvation,
Christ rose from depths of earth;
On thee our Lord, victorious,
The Spirit sent from heaven;
And thus on thee, most glorious,
A triple light was given.”

Help us to keep this day holy unto thee. Accept the service we render thee in both private and public worship, and prepare us by this holy day for holy living.

On this new day of life, too, we would worship thee. The day has come to us by thy grace out of thine eternity. It brings with it new responsibilities: help us to discharge them aright. It brings gracious opportunities: help us to avail ourselves of them. It brings with it new temptations: with every temptation provide a way of escape. May this be a day of victory over evil—victory for good works, for clean words, for pure thoughts. And may thy Kingdom come in us and throughout thy world. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

—SAMUEL TYNDALE WILSON, D.D.

Monday Morning, Fourth Week

MY son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

—PROV. 3:1-7.

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, keep us in body and soul from all evil; let thy mercy come upon us, O God, in great fullness, even as our sins against thee have been many, and may thy forgiveness overflow all our transgressions, that they may be covered and blotted out. Grant us, O God, that with a meek and lowly heart we may endure fatherly corrections, and submit ourselves quietly to thy wise discipline. Grant, O God, that we may patiently bear the troubles of this natural life, neither rebelling against thee nor turning away from thy instruction, so that in the end we may be made wise and humble. Send thy peace into our hearts, O Lord, throughout the whole of this day, and having forgiven others, even as thou dost forgive us, may we have comfort this day in our souls, in our home, in our associations with our fellows, that when the day is done we may have glorified our only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name we have asked these things. Amen.

—M. H. KRAUSS, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, Fourth Week

A SOFT answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit. A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent. In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble. —PROV. 15:1-6.

Our heavenly Father, we thank thee for this inspiring and warning message from thy Word. We would have our home to be a house of the righteous, and we pray that thou wilt correct anything that thine eyes may find wrong in it. Help us as we guard our tongues during this day. If we are to meet with wrath or foolishness, give us grace for the soft answer that will turn away wrath and guard us from grievous words that stir up anger. Let it be a day in which we receive instruction and reproof in the right spirit, whatever the agencies through which thou dost send them to us.

What we ask for ourselves we ask also for our loved ones, wherever they may be, and for our fellow workers in thy cause around the world. We crave for all of them, as for ourselves, the strong and gentle spirit of Christ, that every house that bears his name may be a house of peace because it is a house of righteousness. Inspire us, we pray thee, to our best endeavors on this day in which we now dedicate ourselves anew to thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—CLELAND B. McAFEE, D.D.

Wednesday Morning, Fourth Week

IN the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

—ISA. 6:1-8.

We praise thee, O God, as the “Lord of all being, throned afar”; and because in thy great mercy thou hast vouchsafed to reveal thyself to us. The sense of thy divine majesty fills our souls with awe; the assurance that thou hast made us for thyself fills us with gratitude.

Blessed be thy name that out of the lofty habitation of thy holiness thou dost speak to our sinful condition; out of thine inexhaustible power thou dost minister to our weakness; and when we are brought low, thou dost help us. May the thought of thy willingness to be our constant Companion fortify us to meet all the trying issues of our lives. Enable us to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith thou hast called us as thy children, and as followers of thy dear Son, in whose name we pray, and in whose spirit we would daily live. Amen.

—JOHN A. MACINTOSH, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Fourth Week

SURELY he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. . . .

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

—ISA. 53:4-6; 10-12.

Our Father, we thank thee for the grace, mercy, and peace which fall upon our lives in heavenly benediction through Jesus Christ, our Lord. We stand in silent wonderment before the mystery of thy love at Calvary. There the night of our sin gives place to the glad morning of our righteousness in him. Thou hast put him to grief on our behalf that his joy might be in us, the joy of fellowship with thee. We have life more abundantly because he poured out his soul unto death. Enable all the members of our household this day to lay their griefs and sorrows, as well as their joys, before Jesus. May we turn away from the voice of strangers and hear only the voice of the Good Shepherd in the midst of the day's tasks and testings. Let our Lord see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied as he beholds our lives. And when evening comes may it find us trusting and loving. We ask it all for his sake through whose stripes we have been healed, Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.

—H. H. McQUILKIN, D.D.

Friday Morning, Fourth Week

BEHOLD, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

—JER. 31:31-34.

Our gracious heavenly Father, who didst enter into covenant with thy servants and their families long ago, and who dost ever keep thy promises, we thank thee for that marvelous new covenant, which the ancient prophets foresaw, and into which we of this day may enter with thee, through our blessed Mediator, Jesus Christ.

Grant, we pray, that this holy relationship may not be a mere outward form. Do thou write thy law in our hearts and enable us to embody it in our lives, for thou art our God and we are thy people.

Pardon our unfaithfulness to our covenant and all our sins, which with shame and sorrow we confess, and help us more and more to grow into the likeness of thy beloved Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Dwell with us, we beseech thee, in our home; bless every member of our household and all our dear ones everywhere; and inspire by thy loving Spirit all our relationships one to another. If it be thy will bring health and comfort, peace and joy, courage and strength to every one.

Give us some part in the hastening of that glorious time of which we have read to-day in thy holy Word, when all shall know thee from the least even unto the greatest and when their iniquities shall be both forgiven and forgot, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—MINOT C. MORGAN, D.D.

Saturday Morning, Fourth Week

FOR God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

—JOHN 3:16-21.

O God, most holy, who hast shown thy measureless redeeming love to the world in the gift of thine only begotten Son, our Saviour, we believe; help thou our unbelief. We humbly confess that we perish without Him to whom with humble confidence we commit ourselves, not trusting in our own works and merits to save us, but trusting only in him who did thy perfect will and offered himself a sacrifice without spot or blemish that we might have eternal life.

Enable us by thy love which saves us, to walk in the light this day, hating the darkness, that we may draw unto thee those who are under the condemnation that they love the darkness rather than the light. Thou hast redeemed us; thou canst make us good, that our works may be wrought in thee wherever we are to-day and however young or old we may be, and that through our lives of love thine eternal, redeeming love may be made known to the company of our friends and associates.

Hasten, O God of love, the day when all men everywhere may be saved through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and may walk in the light as he is in the light. We ask it all in his glorious name. Amen.

Sunday Morning, Fifth Week

BLESSED are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

—MATT. 5:3-12.

Our Father, open our minds to the stirring of thy spirit in the faces of children, the rustle of the grass, the play of life and the life of play. May we push forward to the greater possibilities within our reach.

Help us to know our fellow man and be touched with the feeling of his infirmities. May we suffer wrong in hope of vanquishing it. May our love for thee and thy children burn so brightly that evil cannot withstand it. Give us that abiding, equable affection which will quiet and steady anger and strife.

Count us worthy to suffer and be persecuted for righteousness' sake. Let the cross appear in our way and may we greet it with faith and hope and love.

Whatever we can bear of the burden of our Master, give unto us, and with it thy strength, O Father. In whatever way we can share his life of love, let us be one with him now and forever. In his name. Amen.

—REV. J. R. DUFFIELD.

Monday Morning, Fifth Week

YE are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. —MATT. 5:13-20.

Gracious Father, keep us ever near to thee. Except thy presence abide with us we have no strength to overcome temptation, no wisdom to solve the problems of life, no power for service. As redeemed sons of God may we reflect the brightness and the glory of him who has given us life and hope. Kindle in our hearts anew the flame of love for thee and for all mankind. Fill us with the desire to go forth as heralds of thy blessed gospel; give us the courage and boldness to testify in word and in deed to the faith by which we live and work. Help us to be loyal to thee and to thy Commandments. Lead us by thy grace in paths of purity and godliness and bless our lives with the consciousness of our oneness with thee. Enable us by the power of thy holy Spirit so to live that we may have "a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men"; and thus prepare us to bring others into fellowship with thee. 'This we ask, with the forgiveness of all our sins, in Jesus' name. Amen.

—JOHN M. SOMERNDIKE.

Tuesday Morning, Fifth Week

YE have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. —MATT. 5:38-48.

Our Father, we pray that thou wilt help every one in this family to live this day in the beautiful spirit of these marvelous words of Jesus. Lead us, we pray thee, from the dark, ugly places of envy and hate and revenge up into the high, clean places of love and charity and forgiveness. Help us to test to-day in the laboratory of life the reasonableness of these commands of Christ. If one in the family or outside of it has wronged us, help us to forgive him; if we have cherished resentment against a particular person, help us this very day to put away that foul feeling from our hearts. Having done this in thy strength, grant us to know the joy of our Lord, the joy of the heart washed clean from the poison of hate and flooded with the light of love.

We ask these things in the name of him who taught by word and example the victorious joy of overcoming evil with good. Amen.

—STEPHEN SEWALL ESTEY, D.D.

Wednesday Morning, Fifth Week

TAKE heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

—MATT. 6:1-8.

Our Father which art in heaven, help us to be genuine and sincere not only in our devotion to thee but in all the attitudes and actions of our lives. Defend us against the peril of trying to do good that we may be seen of men and praised by them. May we seek no reward at all from men, but do them good freely and for Christ's sake. Content us with thine approval, who art thyself our exceeding great reward.

May our prayers be sincere, expressing the desires of our own hearts, in accordance with thy will. Keep us from needless and faithless worry and anxiety, inasmuch as we know that our needs are known unto thee before they are formed in our hearts or spoken with our lips.

Accompany us now, we humbly pray thee, as we go to our several duties and, wherever each one of us is throughout the day, may he take thee with him in the secret places of his heart, even though he be in the crowd. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday Morning, Fifth Week

AFTER this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.—**MATT. 6:9-18.**

We thank thee, our heavenly Father, for the knowledge and assurance that we are thy children. Willful, disobedient, and selfish children we are betimes, but we pray that the Fountain opened for sin and uncleanness may cleanse us from every sin.

We are grateful, indeed, for our home, with its many blessings. We need thy continued care, protection, and provision, and humbly ask thee to supply our every need. The children which thou hast graciously given us are ever in our hearts and minds. Make them, we entreat thee, thy children. May we all be bound together in the bundle of life. We would remember all our loved ones: may they be the objects of thy redeeming love. May our friends be thy friends, and may the hearts of our enemies, if we have enemies, be turned toward us and our hearts toward them.

We pray for thy Church. May thy Kingdom come in our own hearts, in our homes, in our beloved land, and in the uttermost parts of the earth. Give us, we beseech thee, the privilege of hastening the gladsome day when all shall know thee, from the least even unto the greatest. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

—S. R. FERGUSON, D.D.

Friday Morning, Fifth Week

LAY not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

—MATT. 6:19-26.

Our Father in heaven, we thank thee for the reminder from the lips of our Lord that thou dost care for us. The rest of the night and the peace of the morning we owe to thee. Deliver us from anxiety about ourselves, our loved ones, and our possessions. In quietness and confidence may we go our way, to-day, knowing that no experience of any kind can come to us without thy purpose of love hidden in it. We commit our ways unto thee, beseeching thee to direct our paths and to bring us together again at evening in health and mutual joy and in the consciousness that thou hast worked in us and through us to accomplish thy good will.

Turn the hearts of all men from the treasures of earth to the treasures of heaven, and bless all those throughout the world, particularly the home and foreign missionaries of our Church, who strive to fix the desires of men on heavenly things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday Morning, Fifth Week

WHICH of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

—MATT. 6:27-34.

Blessed Master, may we always recognize thee as one of our family circle—an honored Guest, a close Friend, an Elder Brother. Wilt thou always be here to share our joys and to temper our sorrows. Wilt thou quiet the unruly thought or the ill-tempered jest, and may the sanctity of thy presence always abide with us. When domestic difficulties arise or financial burdens press, then, Lord, may we turn to thee and remember thy gracious words which the world, after all these years, fails to grasp; and let our anxiety subside, remembering that we are in the heavenly Father's care.

If we are rich in worldly goods, may we remember that we are but stewards, and be faithful in our stewardship. If we are poor, may we remember thy poverty—how thou didst empty thyself for our sakes—and may we, with what little we have, do our share to ease the burden of some other saddened heart.

Above all, may we give ourselves in service so that the world may be the better for our having lived; and from this home may there emanate an influence that will always testify to our constant friendship and association with thee, our Master and our Friend. In thine own dear name. Amen.

—F. M. BRASELMAN.

Sunday Morning, Sixth Week

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you. —MATT. 7:1-6.

O thou living and eternal God with whom we have to do, create in us clean hearts and renew right spirits within us. Wherein we have failed to follow the precepts and example of thy dear Son, our Lord, forgive us. Forgive us for all censoriousness and uncharity, for hasty words and ungenerous thoughts. Forgive us if we have seen weakness in others. Give us the spirit of kindness and compassion. Help us to put ourselves in the place of others and to consider ourselves lest we also be tempted.

We pray for each and every member of our family circle, wherever they may be. Wilt thou guard and guide them by the presence of thy holy Spirit. Wilt thou show unto them the way of life and help them to walk in it. Grant that we may be an unbroken family.

We pray for all classes and conditions of men, for the Church at home and abroad, for our nation and for all the nations of the earth. May understanding and good will prevail among all classes and races, all peoples and nations. May those that are strong help the weak instead of exploiting them.

Hasten, we beseech thee, the coming of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, and save us with an everlasting salvation. This we ask in our Redeemer's name. Amen.

—WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES, D.D.

Monday Morning, Sixth Week

ASK, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

—MATT. 7:7-14.

Our heavenly Father, thou art never impatient with our much asking. We are never able to ask beyond the measure of thy willingness, so great is thy love and so rich is thy bounty. Teach us wisely to ask of thee. Unlike our earthly parents, thou canst save us from our wrong asking. Thou knowest better what we need than do we ourselves. In mercy and farseeing love thou dost often withhold the gift for which we ask. We desire the full blessing of thy love for this day and hour. The burdens of life are ever with us. The anxieties and responsibilities come with the toil and duties of every day. Our needs are many. We need thy joy and peace in our hearts. We need the directing influences of thy Spirit at every turn, lest we take the wrong path. We need the guidance of the still, small voice in order to choose aright where so many choices are to be made. Encircle every precious loved one this day with thy protecting care. Let each one share the rest and strength that come through thine indwelling presence. Thus only will our lives abound in all good. We ask these things in Christ's name. Amen.

—WILLIAM CHALMERS COVERT, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, Sixth Week

BEWARE of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

—MATT. 7:15-23.

Our Father, we, thy children, bow before thee. We love thee because thou hast first loved us. We praise thee for thy love and grace. We thank thee for all good.

This new day is thy gift. Thou hast spoken to us about it in thy Word, so that we are instructed and warned as to what we may expect in it. May thy Spirit keep us from being led astray by enemies from without, and help us to overcome our temptations from within. Help us to remember that we belong to thee, and to glorify thee by doing thy will to-day.

Help those of us who go out to-day to shun all evil; keep those who abide in the home in the way of peace; and, O Father, keep the children under the shadow of thy wing.

May all thy people be enabled so to live to-day that thou mayest be glorified in them. All we ask is in Jesus' name. Amen.

—J. C. ROBINSON, D.D.

Wednesday Morning, Sixth Week

THEREFORE whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

—MATTHEW. 7:24-29.

Our dear Lord, thou hast not concealed from us the disaster that awaits those who neglect thy words. Thou hast flashed the signal of danger before us. We may indeed exist apart from thee, but apart from thee we can do nothing. The very house we build, the very attainment we secure, becomes a mockery, and when the night comes and the storm, great is the fall of it.

We pray, dear Lord, that we may believe that thy words come from God. May they have authority for us and persuasiveness. May we remember thy commandments to do them, just because they are thy commandments. Help us to-day to be careful in our decisions.

Reveal again thy precious cross where thou didst die to save us from sin. Tell us again that we have not been redeemed with corruptible things but by thy blood. Show us how costly thy love for us has been. Give us a glimpse of the glory which thou hast prepared for us in heaven. Then we cannot forget thee. In thy name. Amen.

—FRANK H. STEVENSON, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Sixth Week

AND he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

—MATT. 9:1-8.

Our heavenly Father, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we thank thee that thou art the Saviour of both the soul and the body. Thou dost forgive our sins; thou dost heal our diseases. Help us so to care for our bodies that by obedience to thy laws we may gain that measure of health which it is thy will that we should possess. Help us so to care for our souls that by the forgiveness of our sins we may obtain as our constant possessions love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control. To this end give us sensitiveness of conscience, kindness of heart, tenderness of touch, accuracy of judgment, purity of imagination, and strength of will. May we be ambitious to go about doing good as did our Master. May we be anxious to be Christlike in spirit and in mind. And may this, our home, be a happier place because we dwell here, and this, our world, a better place because we live here. These things we ask in his name who still has power both to heal and to forgive. Amen.

—LEWIS SEYMOUR MUDGE, D.D.

Friday Morning, Sixth Week

AND he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

—MARK 3:1-6.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we come again into thy presence to beseech thy blessing upon ourselves and our loved ones. Grant that we may begin the day in the spirit of humility, trusting in thy goodness and hoping in thy mercy. Deliver us from hardness of heart and kindle in us a holy desire to see thy face and know thy will.

We thank thee, O God, for the blessings of the night and the mercies of the morning. As we go about the duties of this day may we be conscious of thy presence. Make us faithful in whatever service we are able to render our fellow men. Help us to see our duty clearly. Save us from uncharitableness and give us grace to love those who do good unto men.

O holy and gracious God, we remember our many sins as we recall thy mercies. We have frequently grieved thee by disobedience, selfishness, and unkindness. Forgive us we beseech thee. Bless our friends and neighbors. Bless thy Church, O God, and speed the day when all men shall know thee. We ask these things with grateful and loving hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—REV. DUNCAN MACLENNAN.

Saturday Morning, Sixth Week

THESE twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

—MATT. 10:5-15.

Our loving heavenly Father, we thank thee for thy care and patience. We have wandered far from thee and often forgotten thy love and forbearance, but thou hast loved us still and never forsaken us. In our hours of loneliness and penitence, we have returned to thee to find thee willing to receive and forgive us.

We pray that we may be more faithful and dependable. We pray for all thy wandering, forgetful children. May we seek and win them back to thee in the name of Jesus Christ, their Saviour. May we learn thy love and patience that we may not be discouraged with them. May they see in us thy character and love. May we appeal to them so that their hearts may be touched and their wills may be responsive. We ask it in our Saviour's name. Amen.

—JOHN TIMOTHY STONE, D.D.

Sunday Morning, Seventh Week

THE disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the house tops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

—MATT. 10:24-33.

Gracious Saviour, we bow in prayer because we trust thee. Thy teachings show us the way; thy promises give us cheer; thy presence increases our courage. We know that thou carest for us with more tender solicitude than for the sparrow. With thee we walk unafraid. Abide in our home, we pray, our welcome Guest.

We thank thee, Father, for this day of sacred rest. As Christ confesses us before thee, help us to confess thee freely before men. Impart to us, sufficient grace to spend the day in thy companionship and to make thy healthful influences felt by others.

Spirit of God, illumine and direct our thoughts, that thy peace may rule in our hearts. Labor ceaselessly with all thy children, we beseech thee, for the spreading of thy good will.

Bless our pastor as he leads us into thy conscious presence. Send grace on all who preach and teach thy Word. Keep us, oh, keep us, Lord of glory, from denying thee.

When evening falls, may it find us still by thy side, O Christ. In thy name we pray. Amen.

—GERRIT VERKUYL, PH.D.

Monday Morning, Seventh Week

AT that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

—MATT. 11:25-30.

We, too, thank thee, our Father, as our Lord himself thanked thee, that thy revelation is made to those who are of humble, childlike hearts. This gives us hope. We are not great or wise. We only know that we know so little, and that we need to be guided by thy wisdom and led by thy hand. We commit our ways in love and trust to thee.

And we thank thee, Lord Jesus, for thy words about thyself, that thou art meek and lowly. We love thee the more for this. Make us like thee in these things, and grant us the rest and peace which thou hast promised. We have no ambition to be great or famous or to shine among the lights of the noisy world. We want to be at peace in thee. Bring us into thy calmness and thy rest and keep us in thee this day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *unto thyself*

Tuesday Morning, Seventh Week

WHILE he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

—MATT. 12:46-50.

Dear Lord, in companionship with thee, we see ourselves anew and in thy discipleship we discover the Kingdom of our Father. In the cares of a busy day may we not forget thee and thy love for all mankind. When we are tired, keep us free from the sins of temper; and when we are unable to accomplish our task, give us grace to wait. Keep us from the evil of selfish motive; in love may we seek justice for our brother. However few may be our talents, lead us by thy spirit to use them to thy glory, and at the end give us the reward of servants who have been faithful. With humble reliance upon thy strength may we go forward to our task. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

—G. A. HULBERT, D.D.

Wednesday Morning. Seventh Week

AND one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

—LUKE 12:13-21.

Our Father in heaven, as we come on this new day to a throne of grace, teach us, we beesech thee, how to pray and for what to pray, and through our communion with thee may we learn how to live and for what to live. We do not know the way that is before us, but our trust is in thee. Through whatever the day may have in store lead us into the green pastures and beside the still waters of thy love and care. Help us in our association with others to proclaim the everlasting gospel, and may we not grow "weary in well-doing," knowing that in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

We pray for our loved ones. May those who are near to us be very near to thee. We pray for the sick and the sorrowing, and all who are in especial need. Grant that thy providence and thy grace may be sufficient for all their need. We entreat thee on behalf of the nations that are still in the darkness. May the kingdoms of this world soon become thy kingdoms. We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

—STUART NYE HUTCHISON, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Seventh Week

LET your loins be girded about, and your lights burning ; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding ; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching : verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also : for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. —LUKE 12:35-40.

O Lord, our God, how dreadful the thought of a servant neglecting to watch for his lord's return ! How great the blessedness of those who are ready ! Remind us that we know not the hour when the Son of man cometh, and cannot wait until the day we think he will appear and then gird our loins and light our lamps. We thank thee that this is so. If it were otherwise we would watch to-morrow but not to-day, some other time but not now. Because we know not, we must live every day with the expectation of his knocking, that we may open unto him immediately.

We rejoice in the promise that he will make us to sit down to meat, if we are ready, and even come forth and serve us. This is Christ's service of love and though beyond anything we can ask or think it is like him who came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister." We would be humbly receptive of all that he would give, remembering that it is his pleasure to serve, his joy to give. We beseech thee in the name of Jesus. Amen.

—CHARLES LEE REYNOLDS, D.D.

Friday Morning, Seventh Week

FROM that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

—MATT. 16:21-27.

Our gracious and loving heavenly Father, grant unto us, we beseech thee, this day the courage of Jesus that we, too, may go forward in the path of duty, even though we know that it will be for us also a pathway of suffering. Help us to believe that all things whether joyous or grievous will work together for our spiritual profit as we trust in thee. May we allow no one, not even an intimate friend, to dissuade us from this our purpose. Denying self and bravely taking up our special cross, may we rejoice in the consciousness that we are following in the footsteps of Jesus; that he will be with us always, even unto the end, guiding us by his unerring wisdom and sustaining us by his omnipotent grace; that though for his sake we may seem at times to lose our life we shall truly find it: and that at his coming we shall receive our reward, a reward more to be desired than all the world besides. Grant this, we beseech thee, for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—EBEN B. COBB, D.D.

Saturday Morning, Seventh Week

AT the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. —MATT. 18:1-6.

Our Father, who art in heaven, we thank thee for all human relationships and for all the helpfulness and joy they bring into our lives. We thank thee that Jesus teaches us to know thee as Father; help us fully to commit ourselves and our friends to thy care this day; help us to cast all our anxiety upon thee knowing that thou carest for us.

Have compassion upon our weaknesses; lead us to discover and to use all the talents and powers for good that thou hast given us, that we may be blest in our tasks day by day and that each one of us may be a blessing to others.

Restrain us from sin, O Lord, our God; strengthen us in thy service. Help us to appreciate the goodness in others and to do our part toward the increase of righteousness throughout the world.

Give us the grace of sincerity, of earnestness, of simple faith; inspire within us high and holy purposes that through their exercise we may be as humble in spirit as little children. Help us to live this day as Jesus would have us live, in the spirit of his Kingdom and in the joy of his salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

—REV. GEORGE H. FICKES.

Sunday Morning, Eighth Week

WOE unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

—MATT. 18:7-14.

Our Father, God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we thank thee for what thou art and for thy deep concern for thy children, especially for those who are young and weak and tempted, desiring that all temptations may be victoriously overcome.

Help us this day not to put a hindrance in the path of anyone, but may we be ready to take away those dangers or pitfalls that others may have placed in the pathway. Remind us that the angels are watching these little ones and also our attitude toward them.

Grant that we may have the courage to part from anything that will mar or destroy the family harmony or impede individual spiritual growth. Impress upon us anew the fact that wrongdoing will be punished.

Give us a positive concern this day for those who are lost, remembering that Christ died for sinners.

We ask this with the forgiveness of our sins in the name of Christ and for the sake of his Kingdom. Amen.

—JOSEPH MCCLELLAN BROADY, D.D.

Monday Morning, Eighth Week

AND he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them, when thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

—LUKE 14:7-11.

Father, we come into thy presence to worship thee and to praise thee for all thy goodness to us and to all people. We thank thee for thy great love which finds constant joy in service to mankind. We thank thee for the service-giving spirit of Jesus Christ who humbled himself and became man to bring us the greater riches of God. We thank thee for the power of thy spirit in human hearts which prompts self-forgetful service.

Endow every member of our home with thine own spirit of loving humility. Take away any desire to exalt ourselves unduly. Help us to become worthy of larger responsibilities. Make us increasingly willing to accept places of greater influence in the love spirit of service. Forbid that any of us should grow arrogant or selfish in our attitudes toward another in the home or toward those of other positions or races. Help us to make our home like heaven. Give us the spirit of humble service for each other and for all mankind. Let thy spirit bless the relationships of individuals and nations.

Forgive us when we thoughtlessly become selfish or self-seeking. Pardon all our sins and transgressions. Teach us to live more perfectly. May thy Kingdom come and thy will be done in our home and in all the world "for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory." For Jesus' sake. Amen.

—REV. ANSON T. DEWEY.

Tuesday Morning, Eighth Week

AND, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

—MATT. 19:16-22.

Our Father in heaven, we are ashamed that we cannot say as did this young man that we have kept thy commandments from our youth up. We wish with all our hearts that we could say it, but we cannot. Forgive us in thine infinite mercy, through Jesus Christ, who was without sin, and enable us more and more perfectly to keep thy law as parents, as children, as brothers and sisters, and in all the relationships of life. May we love one another, and our neighbors as ourselves.

Enable us, we pray thee, not to be too much attached to any of our possessions. All that we have is from thee, and we acknowledge that we must enjoy and use our possessions for thy glory and for the spread of thy Kingdom. Incline us and all of thy children to sacrificial giving of our possessions, ourselves, and those who are dearer to us than life, that all men everywhere, in our own land and across the seas, may have eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday Morning, Eighth Week

THEY said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

—MARK 10:37-45.

Our heavenly Father, we thank thee for the rest of the night and the light of the morning. Help us to walk this day in thy way, making thy Word the man of our counsel. We know not what is best for us, and therefore may thy Holy Spirit direct our lives. Keep us from seeking position or preferment which would bring us only distress and sorrow. Make us content with our lot if our present position in life is thy purpose for us. Help us ever to say, "Thy will be done." Give us right incentives and laudable desires. Show us that the truly great life is the life of service, and make us willing and ready to serve. Help us in this day's duties. Use us in thy work and help us to make use of every help afforded for better work. When the day is done, may we be able to look back upon it as a day well spent. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our ever-living Friend and Saviour. Amen.

—CALVIN C. HAYS, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Eighth Week

AND it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

—LUKE 17:11-19.

We want to live our lives to-day, our Father, so that thou wilt be pleased with us, so that we may not be ashamed or disappointed. Father, help us to understand thy words from the Bible this morning, as we have read how Jesus, thy Son, helped the lepers he met. We shall meet people who need help, our Father—it may be kindness, love, sympathy, encouragement they need. Whatever it may be, may we help them in the spirit of Jesus. May the words we speak, the example we reveal, and the things we do for others show that we are trying to be helpful as Jesus was helpful.

We are sorry, Father, that the men healed by Jesus forgot to be grateful. Sometimes we forget. Show us how we may express our thanks and appreciation, at home, at school, in our work and play.

Our Father, we want to learn to have more faith every day and we pray for faith this morning and faith and love all through the day. Whatever success or joy or difficulty or trial may come, help us to meet it with faith that it is a blessing in our lives to-day or in the days ahead. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

—REV. WILLIAM RALPH HALL.

Friday Morning, Eighth Week

AND he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.—LUKE 18:9-14.

Our Father, we thank thee for the manifold blessings that are ours this day: for the comforts of life; for the advantages of education; for the many opportunities of worshiping and serving thee which possibly others do not have. Grant that we may realize to what an extent we are indebted to thy revelation to men for all these mercies, and thus be restrained from assuming a spirit of pride and vanity as though we ourselves had attained.

Fill us with the spirit of Christ, who, recognizing the appalling human needs, sacrificed himself in order that these might be satisfied. May we be unmindful of any merit we may have in the eyes of the world but concerned that to thee shall be the honor and the glory. Recognizing our unworthiness may we trust thee for strength and courage to accomplish those things which thou wouldst have us do. Help us, we beseech thee, humbly and modestly to face the tasks and opportunities of this day with enthusiasm, earnestness, unselfishness, and a consciousness that thou art standing by, ready to justify if our work is of thee. For Christ's sake. Amen.

—RALPH W. HARBISON.

Saturday Morning, Eighth Week

AND Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchæus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchæus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchæus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

—LUKE 19:1-10.

We thank thee, our Father, that the desire to see Jesus is in our hearts, also. From the youngest of us to the oldest, we desire to walk with him as our invisible Companion, until at last we can see him face to face. We thank thee for those of our family circle who walked with him as we walk, and who now in his presence are like him because they see him as he is.

We thank thee that salvation has come to our house for the Lord Jesus dwells here with us, and has sought and saved the lost in this house, as he visited and brought salvation to the house of Zacchæus. Restrain us from doing wrong to anyone, and if we have wronged any make us strong enough to confess the wrong and undo it as far as we can. Because this is a house in which the Lord Jesus is the unseen Guest, may the whole spirit of our life together be such that it may commend to other families the religion which we profess.

Bless all those throughout the world who are giving their lives to bringing the Lord Jesus as a Friend and a Saviour into all the homes of the world. In his name we ask it. Amen.

Sunday Morning, Ninth Week

AND one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

—MARK 12:28-34.

To thee, our heavenly Father, we bring our morning praise for thy great goodness which has thus far kept us and led us in safety on our way. Spared by thy mercy to begin this new day, we pray for thy blessing that we may be made sufficient in health of body, in wisdom of mind, and in strength of spirit for its every need. Since thou hast first loved us, revealing that love by riches of grace through thy Son, our Saviour, give us warm hearts to love thee as we ought.

Take away our narrowness of vision and coldness of nature that in loving thee we may render true affection toward our fellows in kindly thought, in fitting speech, and in generous deed. So cause us to find in captivity to thy great commandments the larger freedom of our souls. In like measure we pray for all thy children.

Forgive our sins for Christ's sake. Uphold our going forth that at our coming in each one of us may say, "I have walked with God to-day." And to thy blessed name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, will we ever ascribe glory and honor, dominion and power. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—JOHN E. BUSHNELL, D.D.

Monday Morning, Ninth Week

THEN shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

—MATT. 25:34-40.

Our heavenly Father, we would go forth to-day ready and eager to bear one another's burdens and so to fulfill the law of Christ, with whom we would walk "in lowly paths of service." Help us to bear on our minds what others are bearing in their bodies and upon their hearts. Give us hearts at leisure from ourselves to soothe and sympathize. Wherever we find loneliness or want or sickness or sorrow we would at least try to lift the load and to be bringers of peace and joy and hope.

Give us, O God, the Master's own gracious insight and understanding. Keep us from tactless bungling, from all well-meaning but blundering efforts to help which hurt rather than heal. Put far from us a patronizing spirit and all professional doing of good. We do not ask for the gratitude or appreciation or even for the remembrance of men, but only that we may be worthy of hearing at last from the lips of him whom not having seen we love, the words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

—REV. J. ELMER RUSSELL.

Tuesday Morning, Ninth Week

LET not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

—JOHN 14:1-9.

We thank thee, our heavenly Father, for this picture of a happy home which we may carry in our hearts to-day. We pray for the troubled hearts that are broken by sorrow and seem to dwell alone. Help them to remember him who went away that a place might be prepared for them. May their homes to-day be made brighter through the hope and assurance of the home eternal.

Some will come in contact to-day with things that are sordid and mean and sinful. This evil may rise up within our own hearts. Help us to think about the things that are pure and lovely and of good report. These are thy gifts, the things which thou hast prepared for thy children.

And if any of us to-day lose our way and come into shame and fear and failure, make us to hear thy loving call and, turning back, to follow thee. So shall we come to know thee, finding in thee life eternal, and thou wilt lead us and all thy children in the paths of righteousness for thy name's sake. So shall we dwell in the house of the Lord to-day and forever. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

—REV. WALTER L. VAN NUYS.

Wednesday Morning, Ninth Week

THIS is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another. —JOHN 15:12-17.

Lord Jesus, we know that unless thou hadst loved us and laid down thy life for us, we should be without hope and without God in the world. How shall we ever praise thee as we ought? We will keep thy commandment: we will love one another. More than a mother rejoices in loving service that she renders to her children, thou dost rejoice in kindness shown to the least of thy children. Even as a father's heart is lifted up when his children love one another, so thou art filled with joy when thy disciples are kindly affectioned one to another. For this thou didst pray, this thou hast commanded, this will we do: we will love one another. We rejoice that since thou didst command it, it is possible, in spite of the hardness and selfishness of our hearts, in spite of the unlovable traits of our friends. Thus shall we please thee, and thus shall we know that we have passed out of death into life.

By thine own example of immeasurable love, by thine indwelling spirit, Lord Jesus, help us to love one another. For thine own name's sake. Amen.

—REV. EDWARD J. RUSSELL.

Thursday Morning, Ninth Week

AS thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

—JOHN 17:18-26.

O God, who dost always hear thy Son, our Saviour, look upon us in mercy in his name. Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for thy great salvation, and we rejoice that we have access to thy throne of grace.

We acknowledge our unworthiness and confess our sins, and implore thee to forgive us, for thou art slow to anger and of great mercy, and hast promised, if we repent, to wash us thoroughly from our iniquities. We plead, O Lord, for pardon in the name of him who hath opened a fountain for cleansing.

Give us, we pray thee, O Lord, grace to live to-day in thy love and service. Enable us to resist seductive temptations and to fight bravely the good fight of faith. Make thy Church to witness gloriously, and may thy missionaries be valiant soldiers of the great Captain. Cause the Kingdom of our divine Lord so to prevail that he may see the desire of his soul that thy will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—WILLIAM PORTER LEE, D.D.

Friday Morning, Ninth Week

NOW Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

—MATT. 26:69-75.

Our heavenly Father, we thank thee for another day of life and opportunity. Help us to live with grateful hearts and enable us to meet every opportunity with courage and fidelity. Give us strength to resist the sudden onslaught of temptation. Keep our lips not only from guile but from any hasty word that would grieve our Lord. May we not by word or look or conduct deny that Jesus is our Lord and Master. And if, in our weakness, in the daily routine of life or in our effort to serve we are overtaken in a fault help us in sincere penitence to confess it. For we are taught that if we confess our sins thou art "faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Then, with the assurance of forgiveness in our hearts, may we give ourselves to a more modest estimate of ourselves, a larger charity towards others, and a more devoted allegiance to thy cause. And to thy name be all the praise. Amen.

—WARREN H. LONDON, D.D.

Saturday Morning, Ninth Week

AND when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, and saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise. —LUKE 23:33-43.

Lord Jesus, at the opening of a new day we, a family of thine, kneel to praise and thank thee for our home, our sustenance, our common bond of love and joy in thyself. Continue thy care to-day and bring us through the hours of toil and pleasure with untarnished souls and unharmed bodies. Intercede for us, O Christ, for our heavenly Father's forgiveness for all disobediences of yesterday, for, like the soldiers who crucified thee, we know not altogether what we do. Help each one of us that we neither mock nor scourge nor crucify thee afresh to-day by any transgression of thy holy will or by any failure in duty. Walk with us in all this day's affairs that wherever we go and whatever we do it shall be for us paradise because we are with thee and thou with us. All in thy blessed name we ask. Amen.

—ROCKWELL S. BRANK, D.D.

Sunday Morning, Tenth Week

NOW upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, 'The son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

—LUKE 24:1-9.

O God and Father of our Lord Christ, whom wicked hands crucified unto death and loving hands laid within the sepulcher, we give thee hearty praise and thanks that thou didst not suffer thy Holy One to see corruption, but didst show him the path of life and uplift him from the grave.

And we humbly pray that in all the experiences of life our faith and hope may rest in thee; that when we are bowed down beneath the weight of any burden that is too heavy for us or at the last are called to walk alone through the valley of the shadow of death, we may remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, and may find strength and comfort in the assurance of thine almighty power, which is able to subdue all things unto thyself and alike in life and in death give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

—LOUIS F. BENSON, D.D.

Monday Morning, Tenth Week

BUT Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

—JOHN 20:24-31.

Our Father and our God, we thank thee for the rest of thy holy day, for the open Bible, and for the blessings of communion in the worship of thy house. We thank thee for refreshing sleep and the opportunities now before us in this new day. As we separate go with us to its engagements, its pleasures, and its labors. Shield us from harm; and bring us together again at nightfall happy in the mutual love and trust of a Christian home.

Deliver us from fear of evil men, of evil fortune, or of evil tidings. Deliver us from doubt of thee, our Father; of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend; of ourselves, saved and strengthened by thee through Christ. May we live to the full that life which we receive only through his name.

Bless any members of our family who are away from home. Shelter them in the haven of thy love and care. Forgive all our sins; gird us for duty; inspire us to helpful service. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—LOUIS B. CRANE, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, Tenth Week

-AND the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

—Acts 4:32-37.

Give us this day, our Father, hearts of kindness and love. Deliver us from all selfishness. Make us generous toward the failures and faults of others, considering ourselves lest we also be tempted. Help us to enlarge our own souls by a ministry to human need. If we find those in whom courage and buoyancy are broken may we have grace from thee to restore them. Keep us very close to him who had sympathy for the outcast, and for the rich young man as well; who mourned the unbelief of Thomas and the defection of Peter; who, communing with a woman beside a well, revealed a charity transcending all differences of race and creed, wealth and character; who showed tenderness to a thief upon a cross and thus proclaimed his yearning for the weakest and the worst of us all. Help us to achieve an unfailing sympathy for everyone who needs it, to the end that all possible channels may be kept open for a free flow of thine own perfect love and pity to all thy children. These things we ask, humbly acknowledging our hourly need of thee, and thy unfailing care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—DANIEL RUSSELL, D.D.

Wednesday Morning, Tenth Week

THE word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) that word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judæa, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

—ACTS 10:36-43.

Kind heavenly Father, we are grateful to thee for thy mercy, which has been extended to us in spite of our sins. We thank thee for Jesus Christ, whom thou didst send to die for our redemption. We thank thee that in answer to the prayer of Christ thou didst send the Holy Spirit to lead us, to reveal to us all things that Christ has done, is doing, and will do for us. We thank thee that the Holy Spirit convinces us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and that when we follow his leadership, see Christ as he reveals him to us, and accept Christ as our personal Saviour, he regenerates us by the application of the blood of Christ, baptizes us into the body of Christ, and seals us with his own everlasting seal.

Pardon every sin that we have committed. Make us conscious that we stand before thee, through the death of Christ, justified. Correct us, chastise us, lead us, fill us, fit us and use us for thy glory. Bless our home and bless our loved ones. Teach us how to love thee and to serve thee; teach us how to be a benediction, a blessing to others; teach us how to lead others to Christ. Bless our enemies. Have mercy and compassion upon us, we ask thee. For Christ's sake. Amen.

—M. A. MATTHEWS, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Tenth Week

AND at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

—ACTS 16:25-34.

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, we praise thee for thy majesty and power, for thy loving-kindness, and for all thy works, and we rejoice in the mighty wonders which through the centuries have been accomplished in thy name.

We thank thee for the courage, heroism, and endurance of thy servants, Paul and Silas, and for their fidelity to the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel. As our hearts have been stirred by the vivid record of the power of a living faith, grant to us now, O God, a sharper sense of our responsibility for the preservation and proclamation of the truth.

Going forth to engage in our several activities to-day, may we through the influence of the Holy Spirit be inspired with a love of the highest and best things and dominated by a fresh impetus to do thy will, O God.

Remember us in great mercy, O God, in the forgiveness of our sins and help us in increasing measure to love righteousness and truth. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—ALBERT A. REED.

Friday Morning. Tenth Week

AND from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: and how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. —Acts 20:17-24.

Our dear Father in heaven, as we come to thee this morning we would ask thee for steadfastness. We have read of thy servant, the Apostle Paul, and are reminded of his loyalty to Jesus Christ and of his faithfulness to his task. We thank thee for his heroic life, for the ardent love for Christ that caused him to brave untold dangers. We thank thee for this apostle to the Gentiles who first brought the gospel to the Western world. May each one of us with true devotion serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant unto us the help of thy Spirit that we also may be true witnesses to thy cause. Grant us strength to-day to live as Christians, whether we are at work or at play, in the home or upon the street, at school or in the office, in the shop or upon the farm. May we ever be close to thee, Lord Jesus, for with thee we can face the future with confidence. In thy name, we pray. Amen.

—REV. JAMES A. VERBURG.

Saturday Morning, Tenth Week

FOR that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that I do not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. —ROM. 7:15-25.

O thou from whom cometh every good desire, we thank thee for that in us which is ashamed of evil and delights in the law of God, and for the will that we have to make war against all that is wicked in our hearts. We confess our sins of envy and pride and selfish ambition and the manifold workings of the sin that dwells in us. We ask thy forgiveness, and we beseech thee for sufficient grace to keep sin from reigning in our souls. Keep us from being discouraged and giving up the holy war.

We pray for all our loved ones, and all who may be even now having a hard fight to resist some strong temptation. Show them thy salvation in this fight with their enemy and thine. O gracious God and Father, our help and our hope, work in us and in all thy striving children to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Guard us from relying on our own strength. Cheer us with the assurance of faith which is the victory, by which we are more than conquerors through Jesus who loved us and gave himself for us. In his name we ask it. Amen.

—GEORGE N. LUCCOCK, D.D.

Sunday Morning, Eleventh Week

THEREFORE, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together.

—ROM. 8:12-17.

We thank thee, O God, that our bodies are not to be our masters but our servants; that we are not to live after the flesh which leads to death but to be led by the Spirit and live. We thank thee that through the Spirit we become children of God and joint heirs with Christ. We thus draw near to thee, not with fear, but with the confidence of children going to an earthly father.

Forgive us our sins, O God, and may we be bold and strong to fight against every evil and to be "more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Grant thy blessing upon our home. O Christ, be very near to each one and help us to follow thee. May we speak with gentleness. Deliver us from faultfinding and give each one the spirit of the Master who went about doing good.

Help us, O God, to do our part in the world. We pray for our missionaries at home and abroad. Give them strength for their great work. Bless, we pray thee, our Church. May our ministers preach the Word and may sinners be converted. May thy Kingdom truly come and "thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Answer us through the great grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

—SAMUEL S. PALMER, D.D.

Monday Morning, Eleventh Week

WHAT shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—ROM. 8:31-39.

O Lord, our Father which art in heaven, thou hast brought us through the shadows of the night to the light of another day. As thou hast granted us this day in thy mercy, help us to return it unto thee in loving service. We go forth to the tasks and duties of the new day not knowing what shall befall us. We pray that thou wouldst go with us and let the angel of thy presence be our guide. We know from past experience that temptations, trials, and hidden perils await us. But we would go in the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us, we beseech thee, on this day and throughout our lives, to discover anew how great and precious is the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, and how he is able to keep us from falling and present us faultless before the presence of thy glory with exceeding joy. In his name we ask it. Amen.

—CLARENCE EDWARD MACARTNEY, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, Eleventh Week

LET love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. —ROM. 12:9-21.

Thou great Judge and Redeemer of men, our hearts have been searched by this Scripture which we have just read. If we could stop to ponder every sentence of it, there is no command which would not pierce our hearts with a sense of our disobedience. Our hearts condemn us for the spirit of our lives at home, among those who know us best, and for our lives in the world, among those who look to us to see wherein the spirit of the Christian life differs from the life of the world.

Renew our understanding of the spirit of the Christian life; renew us in our affections and our wills that we may truly desire and earnestly strive after those Christian virtues and graces of which the great apostle speaks. During this day may no evil overcome us, whether it be an evil deed done against us or an evil word spoken against us, but may the good which thou dost encourage in our hearts overcome all the evil.

O Lord, who art mighty so that none can withstand thee, make good victorious in the hearts and minds of men and nations to-day, that thy Kingdom may come and thy will be done. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday Morning, Eleventh Week

AND though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

—I COR. 13:3-13.

Our Father, God, we bless thee for the love that never fails, whose length and breadth and height and depth none can measure. We humbly ask that by thy grace thou wilt help us to remember that whatever this day may bring it cannot separate us from the love which follows us and guards us all the way.

Forgive us that in our goings and comings, in our strivings and failings, we have so often forgotten the strength which thy love provides in the hour when temptation lays a beguiling hand upon us to lead us from the path of honor. In our hearts we desire above all else to be faithful to the trust of life and only the remembrance of thy love is sufficient to keep us true.

We ask that for to-day, and every succeeding day, we may answer thy love with our own; as thou hast given us thy beloved Son, so may we give our best to thee. And may we come to know, whatever be our burdens or disappointments, that "all things work together for good to them that love thee." In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

—CHARLES A. CAMPBELL, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Eleventh Week

NOW this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

—I COR. 15 :50-58.

Eternal God, our Creator and heavenly Father, who hast given us bodies of flesh and blood to serve our spirits in time, and spirits to rule our bodies and serve thee throughout time, enable us so to live in harmony with thy laws that we may have health and physical vigor to perform our work.

Keep us faithful in our present tasks; but may we see them ever in their eternal relationships. Teach us the meaning and message of our Saviour's resurrection. Forbid that we should feel overmuch at home in this present world. Keeping step with our generation, we would yet see in faith a goal beyond present horizons, and march steadfastly toward the home of the spirit. Imbue us constantly with a realization that we are pilgrims. If the baggage of life increase, may it not impede our pilgrimage. So impart thy grace that we may use this present world to thy glory, laying up in store the things that are unseen, and building into our lives the things that shall prepare us to live forever. We ask it through Christ, our crucified and risen Saviour. Amen.

—DAVID H. CRAVER, D.D.

Friday Morning, Eleventh Week

BUT we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. . . . For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

—II COR. 4:7-11; 16-18.

Heavenly Father, as we enter upon this day's life we desire to pledge thee anew our glad devotion. Whatever the day may bring to us of duty, of responsibility, and of trial, grant that we may carry ourselves all through its hours as those who have thine unfailing support and as those who are heirs of thine everlasting glory. May these very bodies of ours be used so sacredly that all our words, looks, and deeds shall tend to make the beauty of Jesus manifest to the world. May there be such strength in our hearts that it will be easy and even pleasant to carry all our burdens and meet all our perplexities. Grant that we may see everything we have to do not as it looks in the light of to-day but as it looks in the light of eternity. Grant that thus eternal values shall decide and control us in every matter. May we so live in all affairs that, weak and ignorant and incapable as we seem, there shall be in us the excellency of the power of God and that our constantly renewed cheer shall make us more than conquerors through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—JAMES G. K. McCLURE, D.D.

Saturday Morning, Eleventh Week

THIS I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

—GAL. 5:16-26.

Almighty God, we crave a fuller consciousness of thy being, of thy presence, and of thy power. We long for a closer communion with thee through thy Holy Spirit. Reminding ourselves of the words of the Lord Jesus that if we being evil know how to give good gifts unto our children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him, we ask thee, O Father, to bestow the gift of thy Spirit upon us. Enable us to open our bodies and spirits to him: our bodies that he may enter in and make them fit temples for his indwelling; our spirits that he may inspire and energize them to every good work. More and more may he exercise his mission of convicting of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come; of taking of the things of Christ and showing them unto us; of working in us to will and to do according to God's good pleasure; of sanctifying us unto the day of our redemption. And God forbid that we should ever quench the Spirit, lest this heavenly fire within us, once out, should never be rekindled. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—WILLIAM P. FINNEY, D.D.

Sunday Morning, Twelfth Week

WHEREFORE putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

—EPH. 4:25-32.

We are glad, our Father, for another return of the day which thou hast set aside for rest and worship. May our hearts be open to the message of thy Word and of thy Spirit. May the spirit of this portion of thy Word go with us through the week. May there be no place in our hearts for anger and bitterness and wrath and evil speaking. The presence of these are an ever open door for the entrance of the Evil One, bringing only unhappiness and sorrow. Forgive us that we have harbored these things.

Enable us, our Father, to be ever more responsive to the Holy Spirit, who strives continually to build us into the likeness of the Christ, that we may live his life day by day among our fellows. May he so lead us that they may feel the spirit of love, of forgiveness, of sacrifice, of genuine and kindly interest in all their joys and sorrows, and so take knowledge that we have been with Jesus and learned of him. And because our lives have touched theirs, may they want to know our Christ, in whose name we come this morning. Amen.

—P. E. GREEN.

Monday Morning, Twelfth Week

REJOICE in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

—PHIL 4:4-9.

Almighty and eternal God, thou art the source of the light that never sets and of the love that never fails. We come to thee that we may rejoice in thy light and live in thy love. We come to thee that we may enter into thy fellowship, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We would rejoice in the Lord and rest our souls in him. Knowing that he is ever mindful, we would trust the divine peace which is able to keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. May we think much of Christ and thinking upon him may we have our minds filled with those things that are true and honest and just and pure and lovely and of good report.

Into thy gracious keeping we commend ourselves and all whom we love. Heal the sick, comfort the sorrowing, support the weary. Bless all little children. In thy great mercy forgive our sins and reveal thyself to us as our all-sufficient Saviour. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

—HUGH T. KERR, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, Twelfth Week

PUT on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

—COL. 3:12-17.

Heavenly Father, we have been highly honored in that we have been called out of the darkness of sin into the glorious liberty of the children of God. We bring thee praise for thy loving-kindness toward us and we pray that thou wilt enrich us with that spirit of humility which becomes those who enter into the presence of the sovereign God. When we meditate upon the fact that thou hast called us thy children, we become more and more conscious of the fact that thy love and mercies are unspeakable. May our minds and hearts be so enlightened by the Holy Spirit that we may understand that the goodness of God should lead us to repentance and persuade us to walk as children of light. Teach us how to live in the spirit and power of our blessed Lord, who went about doing good, and help us not to forget that our heavenly Father is interested in all our daily life. Help us to encourage one another in the Christian life and to do all things to thine honor and glory. We ask these things through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—REV. WARREN R. WARD.

Wednesday Morning, Twelfth Week

NOW we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. —I THESS. 5:14-24.

Lord, we thank thee for the new day that thou hast given us. Help us to feel that it has come to us from thy hand, bringing its joys, its disappointments, and its opportunities. Help us to say with the psalmist, "This is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." We have heard this morning thy commandment, "Rejoice evermore." The day may bring its triumphs or the day may bring its defeats, but give us the power to go through it with a singing heart and a smiling face. Amid all its tasks and burdens give us the joy of serving our fellow men and thee. May the spirit of prayer so fill our minds and govern our actions that every task shall be a sacrament and every deed a prayer.

Give us thankful hearts, O God, for we know that this is thy will in Christ Jesus concerning us. May the Holy Spirit dwell in us richly, and may no waywardness of will or hardness of heart quench the Spirit or turn us from his guidance. May the God of peace sanctify our lives and preserve us blameless unto the coming of the King. We ask in Christ's name. Amen.

—F. PAUL McCONKEY, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Twelfth Week

BUT thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. —I TIM. 6:11-16.

O thou King of kings and Lord of lords, who rulest the affairs of men, by whose hand all living things were made and by whose blessings they are sustained and nourished, lead us this day in paths of righteousness for thy name's sake.

We give thee hearty thanks for thy blessings upon our lives, our homes, and our loved ones. Again would we commit them to thy tender care. Continue, O God, to supply all our needs through riches of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Help us this day, and all days, to turn our backs on evil desires and vain discussions and to press on to gain righteousness, piety, faith, love, steadfastness, and a patient, forbearing temper. May we have grace to persevere in the noblest of all contests, the good fight of the faith; to lay hold on eternal life; and to keep all that has been committed to us free from reproach and stain.

Keep us, we pray thee, in the love and fear of God, in the fellowship of Christ, and in communion with all saints. And when the day is done may we be workmen unashamed because we have honestly endeavored to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

—B. A. HODGES, D.D.

Friday Morning, Twelfth Week

YEA, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

—II TIM. 3:12-17.

Our heavenly Father, we give thee our loving thanks for thy care over us through the darkness of the night that is past. As we enter into the privileges and duties of a new day, we pray that as the light of the sun makes plain the earthly path in which we walk, so may the light of thy Word illumine the paths of the spiritual life of this family. We thank thee that it is a light not of earth but of heaven, that it is God-given and can never lead us astray. We thank thee for its place in this home, for its influence upon us all. May we love thy Word more and more and exemplify it more and more in our daily living. Keep us all from harm and danger and sin this day. Guide us in places of peculiar temptation. Create within us a hatred of wrongdoing and a love of well-doing. Make us honest, pure in thought and action, and may the Lord Jesus be our Friend, Companion, and Saviour, this day and through all the days. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

—MAITLAND ALEXANDER, D.D.

Saturday Morning, Twelfth Week

PUT them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared. Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.—TITUS 3:1-8a.

We adore and worship thee, O Christ, whom God hath highly exalted and given a name which is above every name, "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow" and every tongue confess the glory of God the Father. Grant that in thus bowing before thee we may learn how to give sincere and ready obedience to those whom thou hast appointed to rule over us in earthly things.

Thou art "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy"; so may we be toward our fellow men. Make us considerate of those who err and come short of doing thy will. May we live at peace with all men, and be kindly affectioned one toward the other.

Make us responsive to every call for help, and always ready to do good as we have opportunity. Bless us in all our relationships and enable us to seek and find rest in thee. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—JOHN B. LAND, D.D.

Sunday Morning, Thirteenth Week

FOR the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight : but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities ; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

—HEB. 4:12-16.

Our heavenly Father, our souls are open before thee and we cannot escape from the piercing discoveries of thy Word. Help us, therefore, on this day and on all days to cherish good thoughts and noble purposes. May all the intents of our hearts be in conformity with thy love for us.

We are glad that we cannot hide from thee because thou dost look upon us with compassion and hast provided for our strength and comfort and reconciliation through thy Son, our Saviour, who was "tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Help us, O God, to walk humbly this day in thy holy and friendly companionship.

Bless us as we worship with thy people at our Church and Sunday school this morning. We rejoice that we may come boldly to the throne of grace to find strength and inspiration in our time of need.

Bless our great Presbyterian Church with all its out-reaching missionary, educational, and philanthropic enterprises. Strengthen with thy grace and wisdom its declaration of the undying gospel through its consecrated manhood and institutions, to the end that men may be saved and little children grow up in peace and Christian good will and character. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

—REV. R. J. McLANDRESS.

Monday Morning, Thirteenth Week

AND what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

—HEB. 11:32-40.

Our Father in heaven, we thank thee for the love that gives us courage and endurance in the ways of life. May this day of fresh opportunity be filled with works that shall be well-pleasing unto thee. Grant unto us the spirit of faith and hope and love whereby thy servants in every age have been able to do the works of God. With diligence may we accomplish the tasks of this day, doing our work not as men pleasers but as unto thee. Above all, may the spirit of Christ possess us, who came, "not to be ministered unto, but to minister." And with the joy of service rendered, of work well done, may we come to evening rest when we will lay us down in peace to sleep, knowing that thou, O Lord, alone makest us to dwell in safety. And all praise shall be thine, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—F. W. HINTT, D.D.

Tuesday Morning, Thirteenth Week

BEHOLD, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: but the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

—JAMES 3:5b-10.

Almighty God, by whose spirit we are sustained each day, we beseech thee to grant us thy favor and to fill us with thy love. May our lives show forth thy goodness in deeds of love and kindness. Teach us to know wisdom and truth. Let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart "be acceptable in thy sight." Forgive us our sins and keep us from wrongdoing. Grant that thy providence may rule over us in all things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—REV. ROBERT W. NEWMAN.

Wednesday Morning, Thirteenth Week

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

—I PETER 1:3-9.

Our Father, we awake this morning to rejoice afresh in thee and in the new day of hope that has dawned in our hearts through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. We thank thee for the inheritance of this life—for health and home and friends and useful work—and for the incorruptible inheritance reserved for us in heaven.

Help us to live this day in company with the Master, with his courage, his tireless service for others, his trustful fellowship with thee. Give us a faith that will make us ready for every duty, equal to every trial, if trial lie before us, and able for every burden, should burden be laid upon us. May the day be without fret or fear for any of us. Keep sin out of our thoughts.

Give the glory of thy presence to all men this day. Shed thy Spirit upon thy Church. Equip thy people for the holy service that thou hast intrusted to them, and remember in mercy our country. May all who are dear to us this day be also dear to thee. Be very close to those who suffer and sorrow, and keep us all in that perfect peace which thou hast promised to them that love thee. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—JOHN A. MARQUIS, D.D.

Thursday Morning, Thirteenth Week

HEREBY perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

—I JOHN 3:16-24.

God, our Father in heaven, these verses so simple and clear in statement are so difficult to practice in our everyday life. Help us this day to do better than we have done on any other day. Forgive our past failures and trust us with more of thy grace, so that in the home, in the school, and in our contact with others everywhere this day we may come nearer being Christian in what we do and in what we say to others and in what we think about others. Send us out into the day with cheerful courage, confident faith, and a spirit of consecration more like that of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, in whose name we pray. Amen.

—JOHN WILLIS BAER.

Friday Morning, Thirteenth Week

BUT, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. —JUDE 17-25.

Thou who commandest the light to shine out of darkness, we are glad for the light that envelops our pathway and illumines our souls. Rejoicing in thy salvation, we would share in the fellowship of thy suffering for the wayward and impenitent.

To such as persist in rejecting thy love and defying thy righteous law, do thou manifest thy mighty power, by making the wrath of man to praise thee, that the world may be saved from the ruin of sin. Others have not known the mercies that have crowned our lives, the godly ancestry, the Christian home, the righteous companions of youth, their lives being cast in hard places, bereft of the love which points the soul Godward. Help us this day as we follow him "who went about doing good" to show such compassion to these that they may learn the Way of life, so that we without them may not be made perfect, but that both may be found faultless in the morning of thy glory and of our eternal joy. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—J. F. SHEPHERD, D.D.

Saturday Morning, Thirteenth Week

AND he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

—REV. 22:1-7.

O God, our Father, merciful as thou art mighty, we rejoice that thy hand has lifted the curtain and let us have a glimpse of the glory at the end of the road. It gives us strength for the steep places and courage for the darkness. Sometimes we seem to hear, faint and far away, the victory chorus they are singing over there, and our hearts take up the refrain. We thank thee most for the sake of our loved ones who have gone out with the dip of the muffled oar.

But we are glad, our Father, that we need not wait for this blessedness until we reach the end of our journey. Even now we can walk by the river that flows from the throne of God. Here we may have healing from the leaves of the tree of life. Already the light of the Day-Star has risen above the darkness, and the vision of thy face is never denied to the pure in heart. Help us, we pray thee, to keep the words of this Book that whether the coming of our Lord be near or long delayed we shall meet him with rejoicing. In his dear name we ask it. Amen.

—SAMUEL GARVIN, D.D.

Prayers for Certain Occasions of Family Life¹

AFTER THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

O God, who art the Author and Preserver of life, we thank thee for thy good providence which watches over us, and especially for thy mercy vouchsafed in the birth of this little child. We would receive him as a trust from thy hand, to be named with thy name and trained for thy service. We commend him to thy gracious fatherhood, beseeching thee to protect him from all harm, both of body and soul. Come down, O Holy Spirit, into this child's heart; awaken him to life and love; replenish him with thy grace; keep him from the evil of the world, and guide his feet unto life eternal. For Christ's sake. Amen.

ON THE DAY OF A CHILD'S BAPTISM

O God, who by thy Son hast established in thy Church the sacrament of baptism as a sign and seal of our engrafting into Christ, take this child, we beseech thee, into thy fatherly tuition, that he may abide in Christ for ever. Give us faith to hear thy covenant, in simple trust that thou wilt receive and keep the child whom we commit to thee; and give to those who make answer for him grace to fulfill the solemn vows they make in thy name. Let thy Holy Spirit come upon us, and sustain us with the breath of life; and thy hand guide us beside the still waters of thy peace. For his sake who is the good Shepherd of thy sheep, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ON A BIRTHDAY

O God, who art eternal and unchangeable, but who gavest thy Son to be born of woman and to number his sinless years, we thank thee for the days of the Son of Man, as over against them we measure our own. And we pray thee that on this day, and on every birthday celebrated in this household, the light of Christ may rise with healing in its wings; that it may lift from the heart the shadow of past sins; and may shine anew upon those paths which once were trodden by his blessed feet. Lord, give us grace to follow him. We ask it in his name, who hallowed by his presence our human festivals, who shared our human sorrows and infirmities, who bore our human sins in his own body on the tree, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AT THE OPENING OF SCHOOL

O Lord, who art ever beside us, alike in our work and in our

¹ From "A Book of Family Worship."

Prayers for Certain Occasions of Family Life

play, grant that whatever our hands find to do, we may do it as unto thee. Bless this household as we come to the opening of the school year. Make us mindful of every opportunity, obedient to every duty, eager to learn, and ready to be trained for thy service. Implant in our hearts the fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom, and fill them with love, apart from which all knowledge is vain. Help us to pure thoughts and unselfish conduct; guide us in all our choices, whereby character is built, especially in choosing our friends; and make us to be a help to all our companions, that we and they may become good scholars in the school of Jesus Christ our Lord. In his name we ask it. Amen.

ON ENTERING A NEW HOME

O God, who setteth the solitary in families and givest habitations to those who else were homeless, we pray thee to meet us at the door of our new home. We enter its gates with praise, and here erect again the altar of our family worship. Receive, O God, anew the vows of our dedication of ourselves and all that we have, and consecrate this house by thine indwelling here that it may become a happy home and a temple of the Holy Spirit. Encircle our household with the love that has been ever of old and yet is ever new, and protect us by the might that is the same in all places of thy dominion. For Christ's sake. Amen.

BEFORE GOING TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Wherewithal shall we come before thee, O God, or bow ourselves before thy presence? Thy sacrifices "are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Thou preparest a table before us in the presence of our enemies. We "will go in the strength of the Lord God"; we "will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only." We "will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord." We "will pay our vows unto the Lord, now in the presence of all thy people." We will offer ourselves to thee as the sacrifice of thanksgiving; and to him who knocks we will open the door of our heart, that he may come in and feast with us and we with him, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFTER RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for thy rich mercy and invaluable goodness vouchsafed to us in this

Prayers for Certain Occasions of Family Life

sacred Communion, wherein we have assurance that we are very members of the mystical body of thy Son, and heirs through hope of thine everlasting Kingdom. And, as we have been made partakers of Christ, so enable us to hold fast that which we have received, that no man may take our crown. Help us, we beseech thee, to bear about with us continually the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal body; and grant that we may remain alway in the holy fellowship of all faithful people. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UPON THE COMING OF ONE OF THE HOUSEHOLD INTO FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give thee hearty thanks and praise that thou hast not withheld thy loving-kindness from this thy servant, but hast given him shelter within the covenant of thy peace, and makest him to sit down at thy table. We entreat thee of thy great mercy to perfect in him the good work thou hast begun; that he, being defended by thy fatherly hand, and strengthened with power through thy Spirit in the inward man, may be enabled to keep this covenant without spot, unrebukable, until the day of the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A CHILD

O Father, who gave us this child to be our very own, and hast now called *him* into the secret of thy presence, we pray thee to give us grace to lay up the treasure of our love in heavenly places, and to lay our suffering hearts upon thine altar as the sacrifice of our thanksgiving that thou wilt keep forever that which thou hast called us to commit into thy trust. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A PARENT

Heavenly Father, the Fountain of all pure love, in whose own name and likeness our earthly parents have stood as the heads of this family and the bulwark of this home, have mercy upon this stricken household. "Like as a father pitieth his children," and even "as one whom his mother comforteth," so may it please thee to pity and to comfort us. Protect us by thine almighty power, and guide us by thy counsel. Strengthen us for the duties that have fallen to us, and accustom our feet to untried ways. Above all, we beseech thee for grace to keep our

Prayers for Certain Occasions of Family Life

eyes uplifted unto the eternal hills, whence cometh our help and where they who served thee while on earth walk with thee in white garments which are washed "in the blood of the Lamb." And as they followed Christ through the valley of this mortal life and are ascended now to thy right hand in glory, even so may we follow them in the darkness till the shadow shall lift and the morning dawn and they and we together shall be forever with the Lord. We ask it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

AFTER A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

Almighty and most merciful God, the Consolation of the sorrowful and the Support of the weary, who dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men, look down in tender love and pity, we beseech thee, upon thy bereaved servants, whose joy is turned into mourning; so that, while they mourn, they may not murmur or faint under thy rod, but, remembering all thy mercies, thy promises, and thy love in Christ, may resign themselves meekly into thy hands, to be taught and disciplined by thee. Convert them wholly to thyself, and fill their desolate hearts with thy love, that they may cleave more closely to thee, who bringest life out of death and who canst turn their grief into eternal joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IN TIME OF DISTRESS

O God, most wise and loving and faithful Redeemer, thou hast permitted us to come into this present trial [*here the affliction may be named or silently remembered*] in order that we may learn obedience by the things that we suffer, and turn to thee, our Helper in the time of trouble. Grant, therefore, that there may be no bitterness in our sorrow, no despair in our submission, and no doubt of thee in our perplexity of heart. But do thou teach us to face our trial manfully, cause even the dark things of life to work together for our good, and bring us speedily out of our distress, that we may praise thee with a joyful heart. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Family Records

Family Records

Family Records

Family Records

Family Records

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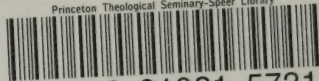
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